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RAD

NEWSLETTER

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NEW TOOLS TO HELP IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT BECOME LAW

Here's a quick digest of three major pieces of Federal legislation passed recently that you will want to know about:

Public Works and Economic Development Act: Provides for spending \$3.25 billion, over five years, for public works grants, to create development centers, loans to businesses, and to encourage multi-state development programs similar to the 11-state Appalachian project. The Area Redevelopment Administration (ARA) was succeeded by a new Federal agency, the Economic Development Administration (EDA). As was the case with ARA, the new agency will function as a unit of the U. S. Department of Commerce.



Both grants and long-term loans are provided for local and regional development commissions. The money is to be used for major public works and community improvements, for economic surveys and development, and for building and equipping industrial and business enterprises to provide jobs and raise the income of the localities.

Housing and Urban Development Act: Major provisions for rural areas include: 1. An insured housing loan program by Farmers Home Administration (Previously, FHA could make only direct loans). 2. Provides for 5% insured loans to low or moderate income rural families (5-3/4% to others). 3. Defines rural area to include towns of not more than 5,500 population that are rural in character (Instead of the old 2,500 definition. This means people in about 2,800 additional towns are now eligible for FHA housing loans). 4. Permits loans to any qualified rural resident to buy a previously occupied home or a building site (Previously limited to those 62 years or older). 5. Reduced the interest rate on direct senior citizens non-profit rental housing loans to 3%, and 6. Permits loans to farmowners to buy farm service buildings.



Extension of Economic Opportunity Act: The Congress has authorized \$1.785 billion for the Office of Economic Opportunity -- nearly doubling last year's appropriation to fight poverty.

PROJECT HEAD START TO CONTINUE THIS WINTER

Project Head Start, which helped 178,954 rural pre-school youngsters from low-income families get set for regular school, will be continued this winter.

Federal funding is expected to come from the Economic Opportunity Act for the Federal School Aid Program. Details have yet to be worked out.

Your county extension home economists will get background on the program and will know whom to see for information about your community's participation in the program. This summer, RAD committees in several States actively took part in the successful program.

Extension agents helped 182 of the 344 lowest income counties secure 239 Head Start projects to train more than 40,000 rural pre-school children this past summer.

FARM RECREATION ALSO MEANS JOBS

Rural recreation is expanding -- supplying facilities needed by all Americans and bringing new jobs for rural people. With help from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, farmers are trying their wings with this new farm crop. There are many success stories.

For example, Mr. and Mrs. Frank S. Judd, near Litchfield, Connecticut, converted part of their farm into a day camp for boys and girls 4 to 12 years old. In their first year, they employed a cook and six trained counselors in addition to their three children. They plan to hire more counselors as enrollment grows.

At Slingerlands, New York, William R. Wais turned part of his apple and pear orchard, including a 5-acre farm pond, into a day camp and swim club. He employs a program director, a nurse, and specialists for waterfront, physical education and arts and crafts activities. A pavillion and snack bar provide employment for four people.

Frank Miscoski converted 150 acres of his 208-acre corn and wheat farm at Cream Ridge, New Jersey, into an 18-hole golf course. In addition to help from Mrs. Miscoski and their three children, he employs as many as nine workers.

Near Bangor, Maine, Calvin Johnson gave up dairy farming and went into the business of boarding horses. With others he formed the Ski Horse Mountain Association. In addition to the three Johnson children, a ski instructor, caterer, waitresses, and ski lift operators are employed full or part time.

These examples indicate why Secretary of Agriculture Freeman recently estimated that 350,000 full-time jobs may result from farm and other rural recreation enterprises by 1980.



"MEDICARE" PAMPHLET ON ITS WAY TO YOU

So that you'll have the facts at your finger tips on the new Medicare program, we have sent you a pamphlet which gives a brief explanation of the program. The U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare's Social Security Administration provided the copies so that RAD committees could help inform rural people about the various benefits of this new law.

RAD COMMITTEES COMPLETE 11,791 PROJECTS: CREATE 468,744 JOBS -- A NEW HIGH!

The latest figures are in! Local RAD committees report another 3,702 projects completed last year (Aug. '64 to Aug. '65), bringing the total for the past four years to 11,791 projects, creating an estimated 468,744 jobs.

Through grants and loans from the Area Redevelopment Administration (now the Economic Development Administration) RAD committees sponsored 318 projects creating 39,167 jobs. Other projects sponsored by RAD committees -- usually privately financed -- resulted in 236,565 new jobs. In addition, new industries always bring the added benefit of new indirect jobs. This meant about 193,012 new indirect jobs.



DIRECTORS NAMED FOR PILOT TRAINING AND EDUCATION PROJECTS

Directors have been chosen for three pilot projects designed to upgrade the employable skills of workers in rural areas through concentrated use of job training and education programs.

"This marks a new era of Federal-State-local cooperation to help rural America share more equitably in government programs now used extensively by urban people," the Secretaries of Agriculture, Labor, and Health, Education, and Welfare said in making the joint appointments.

Named to head the programs in the three pilot counties were: Edward Henderson, Forrest City, Ark., as project director in St. Francis County, Arkansas; William Dorsey, Park Rapids, Minn., as project director in Todd County, Minnesota, and Henry A. Gonzales, Santa Fe, N. M., as project director in Sandoval County, New Mexico.

All programs for training and education will be made available in the three pilot counties. Projects are expected in the areas of manpower retraining, vocational and adult education, natural resource evaluation, and economic development.

ROADSIDE MARKETING -- IS IT FOR YOU?

If your committee is thinking about roadside markets as a possible new project, you'll want to ask your State Extension Marketing or Fruit and Vegetable Specialist about a new publication -- Farm Roadside Marketing in the United States.

Written for farmers selling produce at their own roadside markets, the publication offers how-to-do-it recommendations on site selection, building construction, layout, signs, lighting, equipment, labor and financial management, merchandising, pest control and almost 40 other topics.

After you've seen a copy, you may want one for yourself. It sells for \$2 from the Food Business Institute, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware, 19711.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY STUDIES RC&D PROJECT

During a 2-day study of New Mexico's Northern Rio Grande Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) project, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture John Baker saw irrigation and range improvements projects, recreation projects, community developments, co-ops, and the work underway on the Carson National Forest. He listened to local people, farmers and ranchers, district supervisors, city and town officials, and businessmen tell what they have done, what they are doing, and what they plan to do to improve the rural economy of the area.

"I am proud of the part the Department of Agriculture has had in helping to bring this about," Mr. Baker said. "But even more important, I have been impressed by the cooperation and teamwork between local, State, and Federal agencies and between rural and urban people and their organizations. This is truly rural areas development in action."



Secretary Baker lauded Governor Jack Campbell for "a tremendous job in marshaling the resources of the State behind this project."

RAD TOUR TAKES TO THE AIR

Here's a new twist on a RAD tour!

When the State RAD Committee toured one of Georgia's outstanding counties to see progress, the 3-hour tour was broadcast live on the local radio station by the county extension agent and local announcers.

When you're planning tours, special events or an interesting meeting -- you might want to visit or call your newspaper editor and radio station manager.

SMALL WATERSHED RESERVOIR PAYS FOR ITSELF IN TWO YEARS

For the second straight year the water supply reservoir in Virginia's Beaver Creek Watershed Project enabled local industry to operate at full capacity. Mr. Otis Brown, Albermarle County executive, says the reservoir has already paid for itself through this emergency use. Water shortages once curtailed production -- affecting 2,100 jobs.



Today, 87 towns having a total population of 518,000 obtain or will obtain municipal water supply from 88 multiple purpose reservoirs completed or planned in 70 watershed projects. Twenty-five of the towns are in the Northeast, much of which is affected by drought and water shortages.

In announcing cost-sharing assistance for 55 recreational developments in 50 watershed projects last month, the U. S. Department of Agriculture estimated these facilities will mean more than 3 million recreation visits each year to these areas.

The projects, in 25 States, are sponsored by local organizations with help from USDA. Cost of the developments is estimated at \$18,592,000, with Federal assistance amounting to \$9,204,000 and the local share \$9,388,000. The estimated 3 million recreation visits will mean more jobs and income to these areas.

Watershed projects are initiated and carried out by local organizations with technical and financial help from USDA. They combine conservation land treatment, flood prevention dams, channel improvement and other measures primarily for flood prevention and agricultural water management. However, local sponsors may include municipal and industrial water supply by paying additional costs.

How about your area? Talk with your local work unit conservationist on watershed needs and plans for your county.

LINCOLN HILLS (INDIANA) CONTINUES ITS IMPRESSIVE RECORD

Success continues to be the by-word for the four Southern Indiana counties in the Lincoln Hills area. In May, 1963, Secretary Freeman visited that area because of the impressive record made by local people. Local RAD committees did not rest on their laurels -- here's just a short listing of their progress since 1963:

- * More health facilities, a new airport and flood control work by the Army Corps of Engineers in Perry County;

- * Expanded hospital services and a new industrial park in Harrison County;

- * A public housing project for the elderly and low-income families in Spencer County;

- * 11 rural communities in the Lincoln Hills area now have central water systems because of loans from USDA's Farmers Home Administration;

- * 6 water or sewer systems built or expanded and two new public swimming pools in Crawford, Harrison and Perry counties -- built with Accelerated Public Works grants;

- * A new visitors center in the Lincoln State Park; and,

- * A scenic parkway and improved roads throughout the area.



During the past 5 years an estimated \$5 million invested in industrial expansion projects that have created 213 jobs, helped save 66 jobs in another plant, and created about 100 indirect jobs in the area.

THREE NORTH CAROLINA COUNTIES NEW RURAL RENEWAL PROJECT

Local people in a new rural renewal project area in three North Carolina counties have ambitious development plans, ranging from a new cooperative

market to a scenic highway, from new rural community water and sewer systems to improved schools, pasture land, and forest resources.

On September 9, 1965, Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman designated Clay, Cherokee and Graham as a pilot rural renewal area. The North Carolina Legislature paved the way in June by authorizing county development boards.

The pilot rural renewal program, authorized in the 1962 Food and Agriculture Act, assists local public bodies plan, develop and carry out a complete rural development project. USDA's Farmers Home Administration will help the three county development boards obtain needed financial and technical assistance and fully utilize assistance available from State and Federal sources.

THIS TECHNICAL ACTION PANEL EMPHASIZES ACTION

Technical Action Panels are a vital force in rural development, giving local RAD committees the information and support they need to carry out their development plans.



A report of the assistance given by just one agency to local RAD committees in Missouri indicates how important the contribution of the Technical Action Panel (TAP) can be.

The report, by the Soil Conservation Service, involved projects such as these during the past year and a half:

- * Helped develop grass, forage, and forestry promotion programs in Dent, Texas, and Shannon Counties.
- * Consultative assistance to the City of Eureka for development of a park lake; to the City of Warrenton for development of a recreation lake, and to interested groups in development of golf courses near Elsberry, Anderson, and Noel.
- * Information and guidance in developing an application for a Resource Conservation and Development project in Texas, Dent, Shannon, and portions of Howell and Oregon Counties.

These are just a few of the projects cited in the report, which showed widespread work on recreation and watershed projects.

RURAL HOUSING LOANS HELP ALMOST 16,000 LOW-INCOME FAMILIES IN FISCAL 1965

Nearly 16,000 low-income rural families used over \$133 million of Farmers Home Administration credit during fiscal 1965 for improved housing facilities.

Secretary Freeman, in announcing the progress, said, "The rural housing program has brought untold benefits to local communities as well as to the people involved. Improvements made by borrowers on their homes have increased the tax base, making it easier for local communities to finance improvements

in roads, schools, and other community facilities."

Farmers Home Administration loans are made to rural people unable to obtain credit from private lenders at reasonable rates and terms.



RAD COMMITTEE PRIMER MOVER FOR NEW VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

Their campaign cost \$400 and lots of hard work, but the bond issue for a new vocational school passed by a 15 to 1 margin -- 1,586 yes to 103 no.

The whole idea got its start when the Beltrami County, Minnesota Area Development Association felt that their young people needed a nearby vocational-technical school. Area high school students were interested, so were the local and State School Boards. But, a new school meant additional local taxes.

The School Board asked a subcommittee of the RAD organization to head up the drive for the school. It's big job -- gather public support for a \$586,000 bond issue after the State Board formally O. K.'ed the idea.

The Chairman of the County League of Women Voters headed the publicity committee -- which did a yeoman's job producing brochures, news releases, and appearing on local radio and TV shows, and making speeches. A local banker served as finance chairman; a real estate man was the building chairman; and, a Bemidji State College dean served as the curriculum chairman.



The final vote tally on February 23, showed that all their work paid off. The committee's cost -- \$400 and plenty of organizing and extra work. The benefits -- an opportunity for the area's young people to receive nearby training needed for today's skilled jobs.

FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINISTRATION MOVES TO HELP RURAL AREAS

The Housing and Home Finance Agency, (HHFA) has taken steps to help make Federal Housing Administration insured loans more readily available to home buyers in rural areas.

Reporting on these steps, Robert G. Weaver, Administrator of HHFA, explained that for many years the Federal Housing Administration geared its operations to meet urban housing shortages. Now, however, the agency was turning its attention to rural areas and telling borrowers, lenders, builders, and real estate brokers in small communities about its mortgage insurance programs. He said that the Mortgage Bankers Association has enthusiastically endorsed these efforts.

At the May meeting of the cabinet level Rural Development Committee, Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman emphasized rural America's housing needs.

In a letter earlier this year, Federal Housing Administration Commissioner

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Philip N. Brownstein urged Insuring Office Directors to meet with the Farmers Home Administration officials to discuss rural housing, financing needs and availability of mortgage credit and to tell about the Federal Housing Administration's programs.

SECRETARY FREEMAN ANNOUNCES \$300,000 IN APPALACHIA RESEARCH GRANTS

Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman has announced that research grants totaling \$300,000 have been awarded to develop human and natural resources in the Appalachia region.

Seven State Agricultural Experiment Stations shared in the grants made by USDA's Cooperative State Research Service from funds appropriated to help meet the special problems of Appalachia and to promote economic development of the region.

The largest grant, for \$99,000, went to the agricultural experiment station at North Carolina State University to discover ways to use wood products now wasted during processing of pulp and paper.

Other grants went to agricultural research stations in Pennsylvania, New York, West Virginia, Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee to study means of helping rural communities to develop economic opportunities and mobilize resources. Possibilities to be studied include multiple use of forests, such as commercial and recreational enterprises, and expansion of the forest products industry.

OCTOBER IS "COOPERATIVE MONTH"

October is Cooperative Month throughout the United States, and in a statement calling attention to the observance, President Johnson urged cooperatives to "assume new responsibilities with the same self-reliant spirit of the past, to explore their capacity to help in America's war on poverty, to broaden their programs to bring hope to areas of need, and to advance the general economic and social well-being of our society."